Multikill: Killtacular

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Summary: The fourth story of the Multikill series, but by far the best one so far. Follows the story of Phoenix team, a group of Marines who have the hardest job in the UNSC, following orders and taking out fellow UNSC members that ONI wants gone, then taking the blame for 'acting out on their own'. But what happens when they finally do act out on their own? Feel free to review.

1. Chapter 1

Everything was quiet, except for the deep breaths of the rookie nearby. It was his first mission with Phoenix, he was scared, after all, the moment the trigger was pulled, Phoenix was the enemy. The rookie knew nothing about the sniper with him. He just had the Phoenix logo on his back, and OSCI was all that he had labelled.

The mission was simple, assassinate the new General of the UNSC. He was supposedly corrupt, Phoenix was a team who had to do the things other teams couldn't. If a good guy had to die, then Phoenix had to do it, and take the heat for the killing. They had a reputation for breaking the rules, but this would make them enemies of the whole human race.

A call came into the radio 'Osci, there's been a delay, target only just left the building, you have to wait another fifteen minutes.'

'Copy that Derv, get to the extraction point, if we aren't there in 30 minutes, leave.'

The sniper put the rifle down and took a seat. "Well rookie, we have some time to kill, how about you tell me about yourself."

"Well I don't know what to say, my name is Reid, I was part of Dream, before you guys asked me to join."

"What was it like there?"

"Scary, because you know that it's already a shitstorm if they have to call in ODSTs. Every mission could be that one where even ODSTs can't make a difference... Somehow Dream has never gotten that mission."

"You do realize that The Dream Team is here, in one of the ships above the planet, to protect the General for his speech."

"Yeah, that's why they sent me, if I can't kill a member of Dream, then I don't belong on Phoenix."

"We aren't the bad guys Reid, you shouldn't kill a member of Dream unless you have no choice, shoot them in the leg, take their gun, then continue the mission. Only the General should have to die."

"That isn't what Liam told me, he said that Phoenix needs to know if I can do what is necessary to complete the mission."

"He means playing the bad guy, not being the bad guy. You will find Phoenix has a very low kill ratio for combat."

Reid didn't fully understand, but rather than ask questions, he decided to sit back and relax, they would have to run soon. He looked around the jungle area, the moon was behind the clouds, there was no need to hide, you could barely see anything. Unless you had an ODST helmet with night vision. Reid wondered if Osci would be ok without a helmet, most had argued that going from ODST to marine was a downgrade, but Phoenix were some of the best out there, and they had a Spartan on their team, surely Osci would have a helmet if he needed one.

Osci picked up the sniper rifle and mounted it on the rock, the rifle had night vision, but it didn't look like Osci was using that either. "Trucks are pulling up, I can see the target. As soon as you here this thing fire, run."

Reid put on his ODST helmet, grabbed his silenced SMG and waited patiently.

2. Chapter 2

'Copy that Derv, get to the extraction point, if we aren't there in 30 minutes, leave.'

"You ready to go Chris? I don't want to be here when those ODSTs drop."

"Negative, we have movement, at the mongoose." Chris and Derv hadn't planned on combat for this mission, their silenced pistols were all they took with them, if the enemy fired back, somebody would hear it. But that mongoose was their only mode of transport and if the enemy found it, then the whole mission would be compromised.

'This is Chris calling HQ, we need backup, four soldiers are about to compromise us.'

'We can have Karl there in less than ten minutes, or a Spartan in

thirty seconds, however the Spartan will be louder.'

'Can we get the Spartan in fifteen minutes? As loud as you like.'

'Fifteen minute countdown initiated, 5 metres from the mongoose.'

"You do realise that evac leaves in less than half an hour, Osci will leave us behind if we aren't there, the mongoose only holds two people."

"Yeah, but Osci and the rookie have a warthog, if I can get to it in fifteen minutes, I can get a lift with them."

"You won't make it there in fifteen minutes."

"Then let's hope something slows them down." Chris started sprinting off into the trees. Derv ran to the Mongoose, he had to be nearby to help that Spartan and get moving as soon as possible.

Running through the Jungle like this was dangerous, there were patrols everywhere, and animals, if either of them heard him, they would definitely come for him. But if he didn't make it, he would be captured or killed.

Getting to the evac would take five minutes by mongoose. But it took another five from where Osci was, plus parking a five minute run away from your location, in a random direction away from evac. Five minutes in a vehicle was about ten to fifteen minutes running, if the cliff wasn't so damn big, Chris could have run to the ship, but you needed wheels and an engine to get over the gap.

Chris didn't have time to check his watch, but he knew it had been about fifteen minutes when he heard the sound of a fifty calibre rifle firing, followed by alarms and ODST drop pods falling everywhere.

He was too late, that warthog would be gone before he got there, and Chris didn't have a long range radio on him.

He took out his flare and set it off above him, then gripped his pistol, he couldn't get off the planet, but he could always buy some time.

3. Chapter 3

"Get that pelican ready, we leave in 5. Remember, we are waiting on a warthog and mongoose. Take down anything else."

"Sir, an ODST has landed on this side of the canyon, what's the plan?"

"We don't need one Karl, we have more firepower than him, now get ready to fly us out of here." Phoenix only had 7 members left who weren't in prison for war crimes. So Karl had to fly the Pelican, but they had hired out some rebels who owned a battleship to help them out, but the rebels refused to enter the planet's surface.

A mongoose came flying out of the trees and the Spartan on the back jumped off, rolling next to Karl and Liam, before landing upright on his feet. The mongoose continued into the pelican and parked neatly inside. Derv got off and started chaining the mongoose to the wall of the pelican. Karl ran off to help him.

"Hate to be a bother Dan, but you were supposed to bring back two of them."

"If you wanted them both here, you would have given them better transport, Chris ran off before I got there."

"Is the General dead?"

"I don't know, but ODSTs were dropping before I landed, so we know the shot was fired."

A warthog came out of the jungle and parked at the back of the Pelican, Dan and Liam started running towards it. Osci got out of the passenger seat.

"Headshot sir." As he said this a bullet went through his shoulder and he dropped to the ground. They all turned to see an ODST holding a silenced Battle Rifle.

Reid backed up the warthog, knocking the ODST over, he bailed from the warthog and kicked the gun away from the ODST. "State your name soldier!"

Reid looked at the ODST's badge, 'Sam', one of Reid's former squad members. Reid removed his helmet and helped Sam up. "Are you ok Sammy?"

"I'm fine, just a little winded." Reid punched him in the face and Sam fell to the ground unconscious.

"We are taking this one with us, ODSTs have a tracker, they won't blow us out of the sky if there is a member of The Dream Team with us."

Karl hooked up the warthog to the back of the pelican and they carried Osci and Sam into their seats. They flew onto the rebel ship and the ship left without a single issue. Osci had his wound healed on the ship but was told he had to be on bed rest for at least two weeks.

Phoenix was down to five members.

4. Chapter 4

"I need to talk to you about something Reid." It had only been two days since Phoenix became the enemies of the UNSC, but Derv didn't want to waste time. With Chris dead, Derv wanted to get revenge at any cost.

"You want to kill The Dream Team don't you?"

"I only want to kill whichever one killed Chris, I haven't had a mission without him, we stuck together from the start." Sam was

handcuffed and sitting beside Reid. Reid had elected to keep an eye on him until they figured out what to do with him.

"Dream aren't killers, any member of Phoenix is worth more alive than dead. If they had a choice, he would be alive. Reid should know this."

"I do, but I also know that knowing Chris is alive will make Derv want to rescue him."

"Where would they keep him?"

"On their ship Derv, no safer place." Derv stormed out of the room, he went into the armoury and grabbed his silenced SMG and pistol. He grabbed four grenades and as much ammo as he could hold. Osci and Karl walked into the room, Karl picked up his shotgun and assault rifle, and Osci picked up his sniper rifle.

"Put that down Osci, you're out of action, I'm going alone anyway."

"You never know when sniper rifle will come in handy, besides, I won't need my left arm if I mount the rifle."

"Doesn't matter, I have to go alone. This is my problem."

"He is our teammate too, we have a plan, and we really need Karl."

5. Chapter 5

The rebels were ready to take down the UNSC ship, DREAM AURA, but they didn't have the firepower to destroy it, only force it to land. The next part of the plan was to storm the ship and destroy it from the inside, most, if not all of the rebels would die, but they didn't care, this was one of the few chances they had to wipe out The Dream Team.

As soon as DREAM AURA entered the planet it was followed by five Pelicans, four landed away from the ship, the other flew as close as possible, dropping a warthog with two marines.

As the warthog fell, a MAC cannon fired, from the Rebel ship, blasting a hole in the UNSC ship, the warthog went straight through the hole, landing in a damaged ship hallway.

Karl had studied the blueprints of the DREAM AURA, he had visited it many times before the UNSC hated Phoenix. Karl knew exactly how to get to the prison cells, Derv just held on to his mounted turret, blasting anybody who tried to get between him and Chris.

As soon as they got to the prison cells they saw their path blocked by a UNSC Mantis. Derv and Karl bailed from the warthog as soon as the Mantis fired its five rockets. They took cover behind some crates that were laying around the ship.

Derv pulled out a timer, set it to five seconds and threw it at the Mantis. Once the timer counted down, the rebel ship fired another MAC shot, bringing the roof down on the Mantis. An ODST crawled his way

out of the broken Mantis, Derv was quick to disarm him and check his nametag.

'Excision' one of The Dream team, Dream had never had a casualty before, but Derv wasn't ready to take prisoners. He pointed his pistol at Excisions head but Karl knocked his gun away.

"We don't kill the good guys if we don't have to, take him with us, remember what Reid said, his beacon will keep us from being blown out of the sky."

Karl unlocked all the cells and they found Chris, beaten within an inch of his life. There were also some other rebels in there who had been captured. The warthog was all busted, but still worked, the gun was broken and there was smoke coming from the engine. Most of the armour was gone but they needed transport.

They tied down Excision on the back, and sat Chris in the passenger seat. Derv climbed on the back with Karl's AR. They took off down the halls for the extraction point, as soon as they got outside a warthog came out of nowhere. It had 3 ODSTs in it, but they didn't fire, obviously they didn't want to hurt Excision.

Suddenly a sniper bullet went through the engine of the ODST warthog, and the engine cut out, the warthog started losing speed. Osci had propped his Sniper Rifle on a rock next to their Pelican. One of the ODSTs climbed onto the hood of his warthog and dived for team Phoenix. He grabbed onto the broken bumper and started trying to climb his way up. Derv untied Excision, stood him up and pulled out his silenced pistol, he looked down at the ODST hanging off the warthog bumper and smiled as he shot Excision in the back of the head.

"Mess with us again, and I will kill all of you." Derv threw Excision's body at the other ODST, making him let go of the bumper as the warthog headed to the Pelican.

As soon as they arrived, Osci ran to the cockpit and started the engines, they didn't even hook up the busted warthog, they just got on board and left as fast as possible.

"Where is Excision?"

"We didn't need him anymore, so I untied him and threw him back to his guys so they didn't come after us."

"Good thinking man, maybe we should let Sam go when we get back."

6. Chapter 6

Team Phoenix sat down in the Rebels mission room, Liam had asked them to come by for a mission briefing. Apparently resting wasn't a priority for a team of fugitives.

But there were other people in the room, including Sam, another Spartan, and strangely enough, an Elite. Elites were alien enemies of the UNSC, however alien rebels always seemed to help out human rebels. Liam stood at the front of the room to talk to the whole

group.

"Firstly, Phoenix has some new members, former Dream ODST, Sam has asked to join us, and we have accepted. The Sangheli warrior Styx, was given to us by the rebels, apparently his abilities would be good for our team. And, a Spartan named..."

"Are you fucking stupid!" Karl screamed. "You recruit a member of our enemies, one of our prisoners, so you plan to give him a gun, and send him with us, to fight his friends? One of these ODSTs is enough, but not a second trigger happy child who is being paid to kill us. To make things worse, you put a fucking alien on our team? He could single handily take down our entire team unarmed, and again, we plan to give the bastard a gun and send him on stealth missions with us? I know we are fugitives, but surely we can get better allies than this."

"Back off Karl, we need experienced soldiers for our next mission. ONI needs us to take out this entire rebel encampment before they attack Nigel Four. We are allowed to do this however we like, apparently the rebels put the UNSC ship DREAM AURA out of commission for a few months, so nobody can stop their attack if we fail. I suggest we disable all of their ships, except for one, which we will steal to escape on. Minimal casualties, but ONI isn't concerned if any rebels die."

Karl felt the need to butt in once again, as he always did when something wasn't right. As much as Liam didn't like it, Karl wasn't afraid to say what the rest of the team was thinking. "ONI isn't concerned if anybody dies. We spend so much time fighting rebels, why aren't we focused on the covenant that are attacking the outer colonies? This team still hasn't killed a single alien because ONI only cares about having control of the UNSC."

"This team is about more than killing aliens, soldier." A man had walked into the room. He was in ONI Uniform, Karl was concerned that the man had heard everything he had said. "Robert Fitzgerald, Office of Naval Intelligence. Yesterday, an ODST soldier known as Excision was killed by one of your team. As you can guess, ONI isn't impressed that you took out a member of their Dream Team, and the team themselves want justice."

7. Chapter 7

ONI had ordered Phoenix to assassinate the general, they would be held responsible if anybody knew, everything ONI had ever done would be compromised. But the rules of the mission were not to kill any UNSC personnel, or civilians, unless absolutely necessary. The Dream Team had never had a member killed, they were ONIs personal ODST squad, so they never had any missions dangerous enough to get them killed, sure they were still some of the best ODSTs in the UNSC, but ONI never sent them places that they couldn't handle.

"How do you know we did it? Maybe a rebel found him after we let him go?"

"Vozi saw Derv kill Excision, Derv made a point of making sure Vozi watched it."

Derv stood up and walked over to the ONI officer. "They kidnapped one of us, tortured him, and they were going to kill us when we rescued him."

"You don't have to tell me, I'm not here to arrest you, I'm here to warn your team, get off the planet, ONI are sending their best to get you."

"Dream are their best aren't they?" Liam was confused, if Dream was coming for them, they were screwed, Dream would just kill them. Dan however knew better, Dan knew that ONI had another team, one they didn't publicize, he stood up, he had a job to do.

"I thought it was strange that you had sent us a second SpartanÂ¸ especially Camo, the rules were that I can't work with him unless it was Agent business. Now I see that it is Agent business, Agent 4 and 5 reporting for duty sir." Both Spartans stood up and saluted the ONI officer.

"I need you to arrest Derv, however, there was a sniper shot fired, it took out the engine of an ODST warthog. If it was a rebel, it would have been fired on the ODSTs in it, so I have to assume it was a member of Phoenix, somebody skilled with a sniper rifle."

Sam stood up before anyone could say anything. "I fired the shot, that's why I didn't take out any of Dream, because I couldn't kill a former team member. Derv needed me to navigate his way around the ship anyway." Only Karl, Osci, Derv and Chris knew what happened on the mission, however Sam was happy to take the fall for what they did. Karl no longer had a reason not to trust Sam, ONI may execute them for this.

"I was under the impression that it was the team sniper, Osci."

"Osci was shot in the arm in our last mission. He can barely hold a sniper rifle, let alone fire one, I offered to help Derv when he questioned me."

"Ok then, I assume that you plan to come quietly? Rather than try to fight two Spartans. Liam too, the team leader is responsible for the actions of their team, he will need to be questioned."

8. Chapter 8

The team was down to five members again. However two were injured and weren't ready for combat. Osci had been left in charge of the team, but the teams latest mission was cancelled, ONI didn't see how a team of three could successfully stop the rebel fleet.

"We have to get them back, Liam and Sam shouldn't be punished for what we did."

"Taking on the DREAM AURA was one thing, but taking on ONI HQ on Nigel Four is suicide."

Styx laughed at them "Silly humans, fear is the ultimate weapon, you can't rescue your friends if you are scared of the enemy. But you could always scare them into moving your friends off the

planet."

"Nothing we do will scare the UNSC into leaving their own planet. Every rebel here isn't enough to scare them enough to leave."

"Well, they want this rebel planet out of the way, so how about I tell the covenant that I have found a Human planet with minimal defences here, then they will attack with a small force, the rebels will retreat to Nigel Four, the humans will panic and evacuate the planet. Then we can intercept the ships and take back your friends."

"We can't just allow the death of so many people, just for our own selfish desires." Reid seemed to be the only one against the idea of sacrificing two planets to the covenant. Especially planets in the inner colony.

"You weren't there Reid, you don't have to feel guilty for letting them get taken away. Play the bad guy kiddo."

The team stole a rebel ship, Osci and Chris were able to fly the ship even though they were injured. The rest of the team geared up for their mission. Reid took Sam's Silenced Battle Rifle and his own Silenced SMG. Karl took his usual Shotgun and Assault Rifle. Styx had a Covenant Energy Sword and Carbine.

When he was part of the Covenant, Styx was seen as a clown by the other Elites, hated, yet feared by the Grunts, and loved by the Jackals. Jackals loved his hilarious antics, even though Styx was amazingly skilled with stealth and his sword, he always wanted a laugh in combat. He would do anything from attaching a plasma grenade to a grunt as it ran into battle, to giving grunts human weapons with lots a recoil that they couldn't handle, then watching as it lost control of the gun, shooting everything around it, friendly or foe.

Grunts were expendable, so there wasn't any major issue with them dying, but Styx never took anything serious, he eventually fled the covenant to get away from the other elites who mocked him.

9. Chapter 9

"Covent inbound! Covent inbound! They just attacked the rebel planet, they will surely find Nigel Four soon, we have to get out of here sir."

Officer Fitzgerald hadn't even had a chance to question his new prisoners. Dream was eager to question them too, but with Covenant on the way, Dream had to be prepared for the worst.

"I want these prisoners on the first ship, with the Agents and Dream, and as many ONI officers as possible. I don't care what happens with the rest, you can take charge."

Fitzgerald got to the ship straight away, he wasn't ready to fight the covenant. But he wanted to be one responsible for their extermination. With the UNSC General dead, he was the highest ranking officer in the inner colonies, and he was able to make sure that the next General worked for him.

Five Spartans entered the ship, the Agents.

Agent 5, Camo, diversity, he was skilled with anything, not as good as others in some departments, but he was able to do anything needed in a mission.

Agent 4, Dan, the teams sharpshooter, not just a sniper, but good with any ranged weapon.

Agent 3, Ian, the teams heavy gunner, skilled with recoil and explosives.

Agent 2, Rogue, skilled with close range combat, hand to hand, gun, knife, anything that allows him to watch the life fade from his foes eyes.

Agent 1, Doom, the team leader, and driver, there were originally 10 members of the Agents, but others were either critically injured or killed because they didn't trust Doom's judgement. The remaining Agents had learned that trusting Doom would never get them killed, even hesitating to trust him would be life threatening.

How could anyone feel unsafe with these unstoppable soldiers at their side? However, Phoenix might be after blood, and they never failed an assassination mission.

10. Chapter 10

Getting on the ship was turned out easier than they phoenix had thought, however the ship was on high alert, they knew that there were members of Phoenix on the ship.

They had hidden in one of the small dining halls to make sure they weren't being followed. A Marine walked into the room, but before he had a chance to call for help, Reid shot him with the silenced BR. The team moved the body into the corner and moved on to the next room.

They managed to sneak to the prison bay, but two guards were out front. Styx climbed into the vents and dropped down onto the guards with his sword killing them both. The team entered the prison bay and the door shut behind them.

A bright green and yellow Spartan walked out of one of the cells holding a minigun. "You have two choices, drop your weapons, or see how many rounds you can hold before you fall."

Karl threw a Frag Grenade at the Spartan and dived into an empty prison cell next to him, the Spartan opened fire on the team, Reid and Styx dived away from the spray of bullets. The Frag exploded in front of the Spartan coving his line of sight in smoke, Karl stepped out of the cell firing his Assault Rifle at the Spartan. The Spartan returned fire then suddenly the front of the minigun flew off as an energy sword passed through it. Karl and the Spartan turned to see that Styx had used the smoke and Karl as cover to run at the Spartan.

The Spartan elbowed Styx in the chest then shoved him to the ground

with his broken gun. He grabbed the energy sword and swung at Styx who rolled out of the way. Karl opened fire with his AR again, getting the Spartan's attention, the Spartan reached behind him getting out his Heavy Machine Gun, also known as a SAW. He fired back at Karl who had to take cover again and the Spartan aimed at Styx who was still on the ground. The door opened and a second Spartan ran through it and tackled the green Spartan to the ground. This Spartan was in purple armour, it was Dan.

"Stand down Ian, they aren't our enemies, they are just a couple of betrayed soldiers trying to survive. As for Phoenix, the UNSC wants you dead, best that you get out of here."

Karl walked out of his cover, still pointing his gun at the green Spartan. "We aren't leaving when half our team is about to be executed."

"They aren't here, they were moved when you entered the ship, Fitzgerald is going to kill them himself if you go near them. Ian, take the ODST to the medical bay, get him patched up, say he is a hostage. Then help him get to the escape pods, I'll meet you there." At that point Karl and Styx noticed Reid on the ground. He had three bullets in his left leg, and one in his left arm.

The green Spartan picked up Reid and sprinted away from the prison cells.

"Now we have to get them back or this whole mission is for nothing. How can we get them without Fitzgerald killing them?"

11. Chapter 11

"When the Covenant attacked the rebel planet, Fitzgerald went power crazy, when you guys got on the ship, he went normal crazy. He wants your bodies, he thinks you are responsible for the covenant attack, and he told everyone you guys took out the General. If all of Phoenix dies, nobody will know it was from his orders. He also tried to send the five Spartans, who knew what he has done, to the Rebel planet to fight the covenant. I guess he hoped we would die fighting them, we have to head there once you guys are dead."

"So the Spartans have turned on him?"

"No, but they will oppose him if they have the option. Drop your weapons and put on these handcuffs, you won't get near your team without them." Dan escorted Karl and Styx to Fitzgeralds office.

"I just got information from the medical bay, Reid is injured and with Ian. I see you managed to catch the other two that he lost, uninjured." Fitzgerald was holding a pistol, Liam, Derv and Sam were tied up in the corner, two other Spartans were standing with Fitzgerald, one was holding a shotgun and had black and red armour, and the other was in blue and white and held a SAW.

"They trust me sir, they happily put down their weapons when I asked them to."

"Have they mentioned where their last two team mates are?"

"Both too injured to start the mission, flying the rebel ship." Fitzgerald grabbed a microphone off of his desk, as Dan signalled the other two Spartans.

"Take out the rebel ship, Phoenix is on board, no rebels or civilian lives to worry about, the rest of Phoenix is dead, also, contact Ian, tell him to kill Reid." Fitzgerald put down the microphone and pointed his pistol at Liam. "Spartans, kill team Phoenix for me, then prepare to head to the rebel planet." He put the gun against Liam's head and squeezed the trigger.

12. Chapter 12

"It was a few years ago, there were ten Agents and we were all stationed on Harvest. Talwin was six, Mitch the elite was seven, Grave was eight, Travis was nine, Pope was ten. Pope was killed when he failed to follow my driving. We had two warthogs, I told him to keep behind me, but he got scared and tried to put me between himself and the banshees following us. He hit a bump, sent the hog flying, and the banshees got him, and the two of the three marines that we had just rescued.

Travis was the next member we lost, we had to assassinate a covenant prophet, by the name of Truth. Dan saw a chance to kill the Prophet silently, left Travis by himself, an Honour Guard found Travis, we saved him, but the Prophet got away, and Travis had his spine severed, he has been in hospital since.

We lost grave when he got scared of my driving one time, didn't think I could out run seven revenants. He bailed from the warthog, I tried to go back for him, but he was cut in two by the time I got there.

Talwin and Mitch, both of them were a similar story, banshees were following us, Talwin bailed and ran into a cave, the cave collapsed on him when a banshee bomb hit it. Mitch bailed and was about to get hit by a banshee bomb, I had to hit him with the warthog to save his life, but doing so knocked us both off the edge of a cliff, I swam back to shore, but I couldn't look for him with so many covenant around.

We assumed that Talwin and Mitch had died, otherwise they would have contacted us by now, but it looks more like they have joined the covenant as Zealots, or at least Talwin. I guess they felt betrayed when we left them on Harvest." It seemed more that they were in that situation because Doom is a terrifying driver. Chris remembered how hard it was to hold on and not bail when he drove like a maniac.

"All we can do is get all the UNSC off this planet before they glass it, however I would like to stay and find this gold Spartan. If it is Talwin, then we can't let him leave alive."

The team came up with a plan, they sent a radio broadcast around the planet, telling all UNSC to meet at the Dream Aura, the evac was starting.

The hard part was going to be getting there, and repairing the ship after the rebel attack.

13. Chapter 13

Reid, Sam and Derv were too injured to walk, so they had to be loaded into the side seats of the three warthogs. Doom, Karl and Osci had to drive, with Dan, Chris and Styx riding on the turrets. Doom took the lead, orders were that nobody breaks formation, and they follow Doom as closely as possible, no matter what. Karl drove in behind Doom, happy to trust his life in the hands of a Spartan, Osci however, was a little unsure about driving, with his arm still injured.

As soon as they left the cave they had four ghosts and a banshee started chasing them. Styx was at the back, so he was able to shoot the ghosts, he took down two really quickly, but Doom had to take a sharp turn to avoid an enemy Wraith. Karl followed him with no issues but Osci's arm was too sore to turn the steering wheel enough. Chris dived off the back of his warthog onto the front of Osci's warthog and turned the steering wheel for him.

Styx took out the other two ghosts and they were starting to get away, the banshee fired a banshee bomb hitting the ground behind the warthog, Styx fell off the warthog, grabbing the side to stay on.

Suddenly a mongoose with two Spartan's on board flew off a rock nearby and over the banshee, as it did, the Spartan on the back swung an energy sword, slicing the banshee clean in half. It was Rogue and Ian.

The mongoose joined the end of the line of warthogs and Derv helped Styx climb back onto the warthog.

They saw the Dream Aura up ahead and thought they were in the clear when a warthog came flying out of the trees ramming Doom, Dan and Reid, shoving them into a tree, snapping the back end off the warthog.

Dan and Doom drew their DMRs and started shooting the enemy warthog. The warthog stopped and a gold elite and a gold Spartan got out. Doom waved the others to keep moving, there was no reason that they all needed to risk their lives fighting these two. Both warthogs and the mongoose took off straight away without asking questions. They had both recognized Talwin and Mitch's helmets straight away.

14. Chapter 14

Talwin fired his BR straight away, Dan and Doom took cover behind some trees and returned fire. Doom swapped to his SAW and blasted the fuck out of the tree that Mitch had taken cover behind.

Mitch returned fire with a Beam Rifle hitting Dan. Dan dropped to the ground, he wasn't moving. Suddenly a tank shell went off and hit next to them, then three UNSC warthogs and two Scorpions came over the hill, Talwin and Mitch got back in their warthog and took off. Doom ran over to Dan, who was still alive, but had been shot in the chest and was struggling to breathe. He helped Dan into one of the warthog passenger seats and grabbed Reid out of the warthog, Reid was now unconscious, but there were no more seats with the UNSC troops, so

Doom had to carry Reid back to the ship on foot. The troops left and Doom started running with Reid on his back, Reid seemed to be losing a lot of blood after taking the full force of that crash, it was amazing that he had survived, luckily ODSTs were trained to be tough.

The downside to their plan was that the Dream Aura was out of commission and they had to repair it before any covenant found and attacked it, it was pretty hard to miss a ship that big.

Doom put Reid on his back and started running towards the ship, he hadn't even made it five hundred metres when he saw a Phantom heading towards the crashed warthog. Doom put Reid on the ground, and ran towards the Phantom, he climbed a tree and waited for the covenant to drop onto the ground.

Doom jumped onto the Phantom and climbed on board, killing the few crew in the ship. He took control of the cockpit and closed the doors before flying to where he had left Reid. Doom reversed the ships grav lift, picking up Reid then he flew to the Dream Aura.

When he arrived, the UNSC opened fire, sure the mode of transport was fast and efficient, but the UNSC would instantly assume that Covenant were on board.

A tank shot hit the side of the Phantom and it started to fall out of the sky, Doom ran to the back of the ship with Reid in it, and strapped him down to one of the seats. The Phantom crashed before Doom could strap himself down, throwing him into the roof of the ship before launching him outside.

15. Chapter 15

Reid woke up in the medical bay on the Dream Aura, his right arm broken, his left leg and arm still injured, he had a terrible headache and was sore all over, specifically where he had been shot.

He had a wheelchair next to his bed, he climbed in and headed to the brig. As soon as he got there, he found Osci, Karl, Chris, Rogue and Ian with another Marine sitting at a meeting table.

"Nice of you to join us Reid, but you should be resting."

"I think I deserve to know what is happening, what is our plan of action?"

"Well, it turns out that Fitzgerald turned on the UNSC that was left on Nigel Four, and a former ONI member known as Aden was appointed as the new General, meaning that ONI now controls the entire UNSC on this area of the known universe. So the UNSC left on Nigel Four have agreed to join us, seeing as Fitzgerald told everyone that only rebels were left on Nigel Four."

"So we just gained an army?"

"I wouldn't call four hundred men an army, but yeah, we have a crew to fly the ship now. We were attacked by Covenant and UNSC upon leaving the planet, they ended up fighting each other instead of

chasing us, we made a slipspace jump but have no clue where we ended up, somewhere near the outer colonies, we found a planet to land on, but we need to organise a team to scout it out, seeing as we have no radio on board."

"Then how about we don't land, UNSC, Rebel or Covenant, we will be attacked, and you guys may all be fine, but I personally don't feel like getting knocked out again. I have a broken arm, I have been shot three times, I have a killer headache and been knocked unconscious twice. I get shot in the leg on a ship on a stupid rescue mission, then I passed out, I wake up in a fucking drop pod in a jungle, alone. Then you shove me in a warthog and I get have another warthog slam into me and knock me out again. Then I wake up on board another fucking ship in the middle of nowhere."

Reid had had a bad few days, most of the team had, Karl was the only member of Phoenix who wasn't injured at some point since the general was assassinated.

"We are sending down a lone pelican, with a small team, you don't have to be on it. We have two Spartans currently out of action, along with most of Phoenix, so only five of us will go, we will go in plain clothes as civilians until we figure out where we are."

Osci, Chris, Karl, Rogue and a marine from the UNSC known as Reaper were selected to find parts to repair the ship.

16. Chapter 16

"Man those rebels weren't happy that we had a Spartan, or a UNSC ship. Good thing every human in the galaxy knows about Phoenix."

"Why haven't the UNSC attacked this planet yet? They know it's here."

"The rebels put a lot of effort into taking Venezia, and the UNSC doesn't see any reason to waste recourses on the planet, these people are happy living here outside the war, sure it's not the best life, and the planet is entirely black market, but it's still better than being glassed."

"Heads up guys, we may have company, hold fire until we know what's going on." Four Jackals had walked into the bar that the team was sitting in, they were armed with Needlers but didn't have their shields deployed. One had a large bag with them, he walked up to the bar and pulled something out of the bag, it was a bunch of UN Credits. The barman took the money and placed four drinks on the bench, which the Jackals took to a booth and started drinking and talking, just as everyone else in the bar was.

"Jackals on Venezia? Are they Pirate or covenant?"

"They are very tame for Jackals, something isn't right here, where did they get money from?"

Osci got up and walked up to the bar. "Hey sorry, I hate to be a bother, but I have to know, why are there Jackals here?"

"The Kig Yar live here alongside the Humans, and nobody on Venezia is fond of outsiders, call them by their real name from now on, they will rip your throat out if you use their human name."

"I'm sorry, we won't be staying long, we just need to fix our ship before we can leave."

"Well, this is a trade planet, Kig Yar love collecting things, they will scavenge your ship if they get a chance. You better have something to trade for parts if you want to get out of here before they get to it."

"Thank you for the help, one last round please."Osci paid for eight drinks even though he was only getting four, as a thank you to the barman. The barman put up four more drinks and a map, which Osci took to the rest of the team.

"Ok, first, the Jackals here are respected and treated as equals, you best call them Kig Yar. Second, we have to head to the trade area to see what we want."

The team finished their drinks and moved to the market, there were thousands of Humans, Jackals, Brutes and Grunts with all kinds of equipment, guns, vehicles, armour, parts and relics. All from different species, human, covenant and even forerunner. One group of Brute traders even had a giant fish tank with these ugly little brown things in them and a sign above the stall saying 'Flood Infection forms' and a huge disclaimer notice with heaps of warning signs. That was one stall that everyone seemed to be avoiding.

The team found a stall with UNSC ship parts, it looked like the remains of the UNSC Ariadne which was lost on a patrol mission not long ago. "Ha, I guess the rumours were true, the Ariadne was blown away by rebels."

"Yeah, rumours say that they came here for help, were never heard from again. Split up and look for items that we need, I'll see what they have here." The Ariadne was smaller than the Dream Aura, most parts wouldn't be good enough.

A Brute approached Chris and gently tapped him on the shoulder. "Hey, my name is Domos, I am a fighting manager at the belter ring. I would like to buy your Spartan off of you, the crowd would pay loads to see a Spartan in the ring. How much do you want for it?"

"I didn't understand any of that sorry."

"I will give you ten million credits for the Spartan." That was an awfully large amount of money, but Chris wasn't going to sell a Spartan, especially since you can't own a Spartan.

17. Chapter 17

"Well, Rogue managed to convince that trader to hand over all of the parts from the Ariadne for barely anything. Turns out that some of these guys respond to black mail from a Spartan, we should be able to fix the ship with just those parts. Even organised to have somebody drop it off straight away."

"That trader looks like he is talking to another Spartan, he doesn't look happy."

"Another Spartan here? This could get really ugly if we don't get out of here."

There was a small blue Spartan talking to the trader. The trader was pointing at Phoenix and yelling something. Phoenix left for the ship as quick as they could without drawing attention to themselves.

When they got back to the ship they found a truck with a group of Brutes unloading ship parts for them.

The blue Spartan approached them on a mongoose, she got off with her Assault Rifle out. "You guys owe that trader some money, probably best that you don't go scamming people around here, and if you actually are UNSC, then why would you be here with a ship that big." Rogue stepped towards the female Spartan.

"My name is Rogue, we are a pair of squads who are assigned to do the dirty work the UNSC doesn't want to be held responsible for, such as assassinations of those who don't need to be assassinated. We also have a crew of abandoned and betrayed UNSC marines. What are you doing here?"

"I am Naomi, Spartan 010. My father, my real father, is an insurrectionist leader on this planet, I am here to bring him home before the UNSC come after him."

"Spartans aren't supposed to find their family. Halsey made sure of it."

"I found mine, my mother killed herself after I was taken, my father blamed the UNSC and set out to destroy them. He has teamed up with a Jackal pirate lord known as Sav Fel, who I was planning to kill. However, they escaped, and my ride chased after them alone, Spenser doesn't want my father alive. But the fact that you guys are here, means you can't return to the UNSC, which makes me think you are team Phoenix. So how about you give me a lift and I don't let the UNSC know you are here."

"Hop on board Naomi, you don't have to blackmail us for help."

After thirteen long hours, the ship was repaired and ready to go, Osci organised a meeting in his new office, he asked that the top soldiers joined him to discuss what the team would do.

18. Chapter 18

Osci, Chris, Karl, Rogue, Ian, Naomi, Reaper and a marine known as Sleet were the team chosen to lead the crew of the Dream Aura, at least until everybody else was ready for combat. Osci had taken command with Reaper, who was the officer in charge of the UNSC on Nigel Four, as his second in command. "We have the insurrectionist leader of Venezia and the Jackal pirate lord of Venezia, who have both escaped upon a Covenant ship known as the Pius Inquisitor."

"I have seen that ship before, a lot of covenant claim that it is the fastest in the fleet. We won't catch it in this."

Reaper pulled out a small crystal from his pocket. "I bought this from one of the traders, he had no clue what he had, I traded it for a Battle Rifle. It's a shard of the Forerunner Crystal found by Doctor Halsey. The crystal was destroyed when they had it on board the Ascendant Justice, it nearly killed them during a slipspace jump. However, it sent them a distance that should have taken days, so Halsey ordered it destroyed, luckily for us, some shards of it survived, if we throw this into the engines of the ship, we should be fast enough to outrun any other ship."

A male, robotic voice came from Naomi's helmet. "I don't know about throwing it into the engine, but I could integrate it into the slipspace drive if you wanted."

"You have an AI?"

"Yeah, Blackbox, used to belong to Admiral Osman. One of the more intelligent smart AI, more arrogant too."

Naomi put Blackbox into the ships AI system, and Reaper placed the shard next to the AI slot.

The ship set off into slipspace and flew towards the Pius Inquisitor that Naomi had placed a tracker on. The battle plan was simple, Rogue, Ian and Naomi go out the airlock and board the enemy ship, then they had to find and kill Sav Fel, then capture Naomi's father, Staffan.

They caught up amazingly fast, the three Spartans got ready to head for the ship. Rogue with his Shotgun and BR, Ian with his Sword and Saw and Naomi with her AR and Pistol. They were prepared for mostly Jackal enemies and close range combat. The three of them jumped into the air lock which closed behind them. Everybody watched the three of them head for the Inquisitor as Doom walked out of the hospital bay. "I need a mechanic, and a damn good one, I recently noticed a fatal flaw in the two halves of the warthog. Most specifically, the fact that my last warthog is now in two halves."

Karl stepped forward straight away, he had always been the mechanic for Phoenix, but he had no clue what Doom was going to ask him.

19. Chapter 19

Getting around the Pius Inquisitor was easy, there were only a small amount of Jackals, and they were easy to hide from. Rouge found two brutes guarding a doorway, he snuck up on them and stabbed one in the neck with his knife, the brute reached behind itself and grabbed rogue, throwing him across the hall.

The Agents hadn't had much experience against Brutes, in fact, only two Spartans had ever fought them and lived to tell the tail. It was rumoured that there were Brutes on Reach, but not many Spartans left before the planet was glassed.

Rogue looked up at the two Brutes moving towards him as Ian came out of the shadows with his energy sword, slicing through both of the brutes. Naomi helped Rogue up and the three of them went through the

doorway. Inside were two hunters, a human and three jackals.

"Spartans? Fitzgerald told us that the UNSC wouldn't come after us!"

Rogue stepped forward, "Fitzgerald is a liar and a traitor, your mistake was trusting him."

"Why are you here then?"

Naomi pushed passed Rogue. "Staffan, I am here because your daughter died when you were younger, and your wife killed herself afterwards. You joined Sav Fel because you were angry at the UNSC, I am here to tell you that your daughter is alive, she was taken away from you at the age of six and replaced with a clone. Your daughter became a Spartan and is one of the few who found out who her parents were. I am Spartan 010, Naomi. And I am here to save you from an officer of ONI who wants you dead."

As she said this a warthog smashed through the doorway, this warthog had heaps of gadgets hanging off of it, including a mounted sniper rifle attached to the passenger door and heaps of armour plating around the whole hog. Doom was sitting in the driver seat, he jumped out and ran to the other Spartans. "An ONI officer is on the ship, he snuck on before you left, we have to get you out of here." As he said this a UNSC ship came out of slip space in front of the Pius Inquisitor, it was an ONI ship, most likely Fitzgerald's personal ship. The ship opened fire on the Inquisitor and one of the Jackals started yelling at the other two in their own language. The ship started to move away from the planet that it had stopped in the orbit of.

A sniper rifle fired from down the hallway, hitting Staffan in the head and killing him. Naomi turned to see the ONI officer who had helped her find her father, Spenser, who was wearing his old ODST helmet so he was able to breathe in space if he needed to. She ran at him and he started to run away, Naomi caught him in no time and tackled him into one of the ships windows, the glass broke and they both flew through it, towards the planet.

"Rogue, stay with the Jackals, Ian, get in the hog." Doom climbed into the driver seat and backed out of the closing air lock that was shutting to keep the oxygen inside the ship. Ian jumped on the back and they drove down the hall, when another air lock closed over the broken window. Doom pressed a button on the steering wheel and a Gauss shot fired from the front of the warthog, blowing a hole in the air lock. The hog flew through it and into space, towards the unknown planet.

20. Chapter 20

The hog flew towards Naomi, who was punching Spenser as they fell towards the planet, they hit the atmosphere and sped up, Doom dove from the hog and grabbed Naomi, pulling her towards the hog, they were approaching the planet fast, as they climbed into their seats, Spenser had moved towards the front of the hog and grabbed the bumper. Doom and Naomi pulled on the safety harnesses that had been installed into the warthog, Ian didn't have time to strap himself

down, the warthog hit the ground with Spenser still wrapped around the bumper, Ian flew into the ground taking the turret with him, blood sprayed everywhere and Doom and Naomi smashed their heads on the dashboard, knocking themselves out. It was like a more violent and brutal ODST drop, they were lucky to survive at all.

Doom woke up in a hospital bed, he was on the AURA, Naomi was in the next bed still unconscious, there was no sign of Ian. Derv, Sam, and Styx were still in the beds around them. Styx was awake and saw Doom sit himself up. "Welcome back Lucifer, wings still not working?"

"Lucifer? You what do you mean?"

"Well, to the covenant, Spartans are known as Demons. To the humans, Lucifer was a fallen angel, ruler of the Demons. So the way I see it, you lead a team of Demons, and you have twice fallen from the sky, trying to be a hero, and knocked yourself out. So yeah, Lucifer, the fallen angel, king of the Demons."

"I guess having the name Doom doesn't help my case there either."

Karl walked through the door and saw Doom sitting up, he laughed straight away. "You ask me to build you a warthog you can't break, and the first thing you do, is drive it from a spaceship and into a planet, sure enough, breaking it.

"Sorry Karl, how bad is it?"

"Honestly, I just have to rebuild the engine and front end, and get the turret out of Ian's chest."

"Get the turret out of Ian's chest?"

"Yeah, apparently crashing into a turret at two hundred kilometres an hour as the turret hits the ground causes the turret to lodge inside your chest."

"Is he ok?"

"Ok is a rather vague word for this situation, he is alive, but the doctors can't figure out a way to get the gun out of him without taking his organs with it. When it hit his spine and the back of his armour, it bent around his vital organs, somehow his spine wasn't damaged."

"What about Rogue, where is he?"

"He was still on the Inquisitor when it jumped into slip space, we had to get to the planet to get away from the UNSC ship, and we couldn't chase them. The UNSC hasn't chased us onto the planet, the Marines said its black listed, landing here is apparently suicide."

21. Chapter 21

"Where are we? Is there anything in the database?"

"A planet known as Darkness, ONI calls it the planet of no return. They called it Darkness to keep people from going near it, it's illegal to even investigate the planet, let alone land on it."

Blackbox was already proving to be a useful addition to the team, however the AURA was damaged from the battle with Fitzgerald's ship.

A group of marines went out with Karl, to repair the outside of the ship. As soon as they got outside, they saw how that the planet was all sand. None of the men could see more than fifty metres, and they felt as if they were being watched.

The marines called for armed backup, they didn't feel safe. Osci was happy to head outside with a gun, a few marines came with him and the repair guys worked away.

A small creature ran out of the dust and came towards them. Karl recognized it straight away, it was one of the things that the brute was trying to sell on Venezia. "Dude, shoot that fucking thing!"

Osci didn't hesitate to shoot it. "What is it?"

"I don't fucking know, there was a brute selling them on Venezia, the damn things were covered in warnings and stuff."

"I remember that, everybody get back on the damn ship!"

All of the marines ran back on board and they shut the door. "Fuck the repairs get us off this planet, we are going to die."

The ship started to take off and Blackbox seemed panicked. "Whatever is out there, got on board, I have tried scanning it, it's an unknown life form but I don't like it."

"We can worry about that after we survive the attack from the UNSC. They will be on us as soon as we hit space." Osci took command of the ship. "Blackbox, head back to Venezia, they will help us, they hate the UNSC."

"Sir, what about the things on the ship?"

"Do what you need to do to keep them away from as many people as possible."

"Locking down all areas of the ship immediately, sacrificing the marines in the damaged bays." Osci bowed his head in shame, even if it was Blackbox's plan, Osci told him to do what he needed.

One lone creature ran out the vent and jumped on a marine, biting him, the creature then jumped onto Osci and bit him.

Karl grabbed his pistol and shot the creature, it exploded and green slime went all over Osci. "Blackbox, we need the doors opened, we have to get these two to the medical bay, they have been bitten by that thing."

"Sorry Karl, but I have to keep everything locked down."

"I will have you deactivated if you don't open up this fucking door!"

22. Chapter 22

Osci, Karl and the bitten marine ran to the medical bay. As soon as they got there, the marine started screaming, his skin started fading and a blob appeared on his head. He screamed in a really demonic voice, and threw a doctor across the room.

Karl tackled him to the ground, pulled out his pistol and shot the marine in the head. He pointed at Osci. "Get to cryo, we need to find a cure before you change."

Osci ran out of the room, luckily cryo was only two rooms away. "Blackbox, put us back in lockdown as soon as Osci is in the cryo room!"

A few seconds later, the doors in the ship closed again and the ship headed to Venezia.

Once they had landed, Karl sent Chris, Dan and Reaper out, because they were the only ones near the doorway.

They ran straight away, there was no need to waste time, they ran straight for the market, they went looking for the brute selling the creatures from before. He hadn't left, he smiled when he saw potential customers. "I see you have an enemy that you really need dead."

"No, we want a cure for the damn thing."

"The cure is simple, kill all hosts, kill all infections, make sure there isn't a trace of it."

"We have only managed to contain it on our ship. But our leader has been infected, there has to be a way to save him."

"Stories say a human on this planet has the virus and survived, not sure how. But he fights at the belter ring, he is the reigning champion, and his owner refuses to let him see anybody who isn't worth fighting. Won't even fight brutes anymore."

Chris knew that they would want to fight a Spartan. So he went and found the brute who had offered him ten million credits for Rogue. The brute was easy to find, he was following them, wanting to obtain the Spartan.

"I have another Spartan, I would like to sell him to you, for fifteen million, and you let us see him fight."

"Fifteen million? You really think this one is worth that much?"

"I am offering you a discount on this one, he is worth way more than fifteen million. So you can take it or leave it, I don't care, surely somebody will pay fifteen million to see this Spartan fight."

"Fine, have your stupid money, follow me." The brute led them to a

building, the sun had gone down and there were hundreds of humans, jackals, brutes and grunts all paying to enter the stadium. Chris and Reaper sat down while the brute dragged Dan away.

Two brutes were in the ring, one was beating the other to death with his bare hands. The other one was trying to protect himself but had no chance.

Eventually the brute stopped squirming and the crowd cheered. The other brute got up and was given a pistol. He shot the unconscious brute in the face and the crowd cheered even louder.

There was an announcer egging the crowd on. "Once we clear this loser out of the ring, Darius the Crusher has been given a chance to fight our reigning champion!" The crowd went crazy, but the brute started screaming, he tried to get out of the cage. Other brutes came in and dragged the dead brute out of the arena and Darius started hitting them and trying to escape. Suddenly a human ran into the ring and threw Darius against the side of the cage. One of this humans arms was mutated into a large, terrifying claw, as were both of his legs. His head and neck had a huge growth coming from it.

The mutant grabbed Darius and threw him to the ground, the brutes with the body scrambled out of the arena and shut the door. The mutant grabbed Darius and ripped his head off. "Another quick kill from Jenkins, but that was a mere warm-up for his next match, we give you something you have always wanted to see, since Jenkins took down his first hunter. The UNSC's greatest weapon, A SPARTAN!" The crowd went nuts, this seemed to be the first time most of them had seen a Spartan at all, let alone seen one fight. "Now, this Spartan is new here, so we should explain the rules to him. You and your opponent fight, until only one of you is left alive. If one of you falls unconscious, then the other will be given a handgun with only one round, in which to execute you. Make it a good show Spartan, try not to die in the first minute." Dan walked into the arena and the brutes dragged Darius and his head out of the arena. The door shut and Jenkins shoved Dan into the wall.

23. Chapter 23

Dan picked himself up off the ground and Jenkins grabbed his arms, he threw Dan at the roof of the arena and as Dan fell, Jenkins punched through his stomach. He threw Dan aside and the crowd cheered as a pistol was thrown into the arena. Dan wasn't moving and Jenkins grabbed the pistol as he approached him. As Jenkins pointed the pistol at Dan, Dan kicked his leg, breaking it, and Jenkins fell to the ground. Dan kicked the pistol away and climbed up, Jenkins got back onto his feet, not caring that his leg was broken, and grabbed Dan's left arm, he jumped over Dan and landed on his shoulders, breaking the arm. Jenkins then ripped the arm completely off of Dan's body.

Dan fell to the ground in pain and Jenkins stopped on one of his legs. Jenkins grabbed the arm he had just taken of Dan and started hitting him with it like a club.

Dan grabbed Jenkins by the broken leg and ripped it off, Jenkins fell to the ground, as he fell, Dan jumped up and hit Jenkins in the face with his own leg. Jenkins neck snapped as his head spun one hundred

and eighty degrees. Jenkins fell to the ground and the crowd went silent. Jenkins kicked Dan into the wall and jumped back up on his remaining leg. His head was backwards, his leg was missing, and he didn't even seem to feel it.

Dan ran at the mutant and tackled him as he grabbed his arm, ripping the arm off. He then stood on Jenkins chest as he ripped the other arm off. "I fucking dare you to get back up again, come on, get the fuck up bitch, you aint so tough!"

Dan picked up the pistol and pointed it at Jenkins face, Jenkins kicked Dan again, sending him into the roof again, as Dan hit the ground, his gun went off and he screamed in pain, he had shot himself in the leg. Jenkins kicked him again and he did a flip before landing on the ground again. Jenkins then spoke in a horrifying and demonic voice. "I double dare you to get up again mortal."

Dan used his hand to vault himself up, head butting Jenkins in the face and Jenkins fell to the ground again. He ripped Jenkins remaining leg off, leaving him as just a torso and a backwards head. He lifted up the remains of Jenkins who was still alive and shouted to the cheering crowd. "I would like to keep the remains of this weakling, and keep him alive as my trophy! I would also like a moment to myself before my next fight!"

The guards opened the gate and Dan walked out holding the remains of Jenkins. He threw the body to Chris. "He is all yours now kiddo, I wish you all the best, do me a favour, save Osci, and get off this planet, don't ever come back. It's only fair that I stay after that guy paid so much for me. Gonna miss you guys, tell the others I said sorry." Dan walked away leaving Chris and Reaper with Jenkins.

Chris and Reaper ran back to the Aura, where they found it in flames. There were bodies everywhere and no life to be found. All Chris could think about was that Dervi was still unconscious in there, and Osci was in cryo freeze, and they had just lost Dan to save Osci, who was now gone with the Aura and everyone else.

24. Chapter 24

Chris saw tire tracks nearby, they were from warthogs and even trucks, Chris and Reaper followed the tracks back into the city, there were mutated creatures that were similar to Jenkins, running around the city that was now in flames. "Jenkins, how can we fight these things?"

"They die to fire and plasma, essentially heat is the best way to kill them."

They heard gunfire in the distance, it was coming from the large hill to the left of the city. They ran towards it, gunfire meant survivors, as Chris and Reaper ran towards the hill, the mutants ran at them, Reaper shot at them with his AR, they weren't dying, but they were slowing down.

A warthog flew down the hill and ran over all of the creatures chasing them, it pulled up next to Chris and Reaper, Doom was driving. "Get in guys, we are making a last stand on top of the hill."

Chris jumped in the passenger seat and Reaper got on the back, Doom dove up the hill at full speed, stopping next to three trucks and a warthog. One of the trucks had a broken warthog in the back of it, the others had Osci's cryo pod and the injured marines and Spartans, as well as a heap of computer equipment.

The creatures were running up the hill and the defending marines were getting low on ammo, they couldn't survive much longer. Then suddenly three covenant drop pods fell from the sky, two hunters and a Spartan stepped out of them. It was Rogue, and down from the sky descended the Pius Inquisitor, activating its grav lift and picking up the marines, hunters, Spartans and vehicles on the ground. The ship left the planet immediately, and Phoenix regrouped.

Doom, Rogue, Naomi, Chris, Karl, Styx, Reaper and Sleet sat in the control room with Sav Fel and Jenkins body.

"So Jenkins, tell us how you survived the mutilation?"

"When we found the flood on the halo ring, my sergeant was bitten, he was immune to it, he injected himself with a needle, filled it with his own blood and told me to run with it, because it was the cure. I was knocked out before I even got out of the room, when I awoke, I had been bitten, I took a chance and injected myself with it. It didn't kill the virus, but it stopped it, it left me with control of my body. I wouldn't call it a cure, but that's all I know."

Karl jabbed Jenkins with a needle and took his blood. He took it to the medical bay and found that it was positive for Boren's syndrome. Jenkins medical history showed that he didn't have Boren's, yet his former staff sergeant, sergeant Johnson did have the disease. This was all the information that they needed to know that the Boren's syndrome was a cure to the infection. They let Osci out of cryo freeze and injected him with Jenkins blood.

Osci was locked away from everyone else for twelve hours while they studied the effects of the mutation. Eventually, everybody agreed that Osci was cured, yet the colour in his skin had not returned.

They gave Jenkins and Osci's DNA to the Jackals who were working in the ships lab, they needed to find out a way to give everybody Boren's syndrome without risking them catching the virus.

25. Chapter 25

Osci walked into the control room to see his team talking about their next mission. "We still have wounded, we can't go after Fitzgerald with this many wounded." Reaper didn't seem interested in sending his soldiers to fight the UNSC without as many soldiers as possible.

"The longer we wait, the more wounded we get, we only have to kill Fitzgerald and General Aden, then it doesn't matter anymore, with them gone, ONI won't control the UNSC anymore. We only need a small team." Karl had taken control of the team while Osci was gone.

Osci joined the conversation "We have three Spartans, we did have

five. Karl is right, waiting will just make us weaker. The question is, how do we find them?"

"They are on Earth, Aden is making some kind of massive announcement."

"So then it's the same thing as the last general, sniper shot from far away. Then we just need to find a way to take out Fitzgerald before he can get away."

"He won't be far from the General, Dream will probably be there too."

The plan was simple, Osci finds high ground with Karl to back him up. Then Chris and Styx scouting to give intel, and Reaper and Sleet on evac.

Doom, Naomi and Rogue would be going after Fitzgerald in a warthog. If something went wrong, then both hunters from the Inquisitor would be in drop pods and ready to drop down for backup.

The hard part was going to be getting onto the planet without alerting anybody. They had to head back to Nigel four and obtain a pelican.

"How can the Spartans take out Fitzgerald without alerting the rest of the UNSC, and still get back to the pelican before the UNSC comes after us?" Osci was the first to find a flaw in their plan, they had to keep the pelican a safe distance away from the whole mission.

Karl laughed at Osci. "Doom has asked me to build him a new warthog. We call it Big Barry, it took some damage last time Doom drove it, but we are confident it will work fine with the current repairs."

The Inquisitor arrived at Nigel four with no issues, the covenant had assumed it was one of their ships. The ship entered the surface of the planet and dropped Styx and the two hunters at one of the bases. They came back on a pelican a few minutes later, the team geared up for their mission as the Inquisitor headed towards Earth. They hooked the Big Barry up to the Pelican, the Spartans would be the only ones with a vehicle.

26. Chapter 26

The pelican left the inquisitor and entered the city of New Mombasa with its nine crew on board, they dropped Osci and Karl on the rooftop of the city's tallest building, they had parachutes with them for after they fire the shot, from where they were, they could sky dive and parachute back to the pelican.

Then the pelican landed just outside the city and dropped off the warthog with the three Spartans which headed for the city. Chris and Styx ran to the nearby train station, they caught a train into town, Styx was using his cloaking to stay hidden, if he was seen, they would all be in trouble.

"One shot caused us all kinds of trouble last time. I find it hard to

think that one more shot is going to fix all of that." Osci was feeling nervous, there were thousands of people who were going to see the speech. They had gathered intel on where Fitzgerald would be for the speech, turns out he had some work to do at ONI HQ, it didn't matter though, the Spartans would blow up the whole building to kill him.

"Calm down Osci, you are the best person to take this shot, especially with Dan gone."

"Karl, last time I assassinated the UNSC general, Liam died and we became fugitives. I don't know if I can do this."

The radio went off, it was Chris. 'Guys, he is stepping up to the podium, get ready to take the shot. Wait, hang on, hold your fire, he has two body doubles with him, two are leaving I can't tell which one is the real one. Styx, go after the one heading west, I will take the other one, only kill him if you know he is the real deal. Osci, hold your fire, don't give us away yet, target is fake.'

"FUCKING BULLSHIT!" Karl screamed as he threw his DMR on the ground. "Fitzgerald fucking knew we were coming."

As Karl said this, the door burst open and two OSDTs walked out with their silenced BR's pointed at Osci and Karl. Fitzgerald walked out behind the two ODSTs, holding a pistol, he shot Osci in the chest and Osci fell backwards, off the building. Then Fitzgerald shot the radio and pointed his pistol at Karl. Karl dived off the building, grabbing one of the parachute backpacks as he jumped.

The two ODST's pointed their guns over the edge and opened fire on Karl as he struggled to put his backpack on. He saw Osci falling towards the ground, there wasn't enough time to grab Osci and still pull the parachute, Karl had to let Osci go, there was no point risking his own life for somebody who was probably already dead. Karl still had his pistol that he stole of Fitzgerald when Liam died, he pulled his parachute and got ready to hunt down Fitzgerald alone.

27. Chapter 27

Chris followed the man who was possibly the general, he didn't seem worried at all, but he had four guards with him. Chris couldn't open fire in the crowded city without knowing it was the real deal. He followed the man and his guards onto a train, the train headed out of town and to an industrial area, the man and his guards walked into an old warehouse that looked empty.

Chris climbed up the side of the building to a window, he looked in to see that the five men were standing inside with their guns pointed at every entrance. They were expecting somebody to follow them, the man pulled out a phone and started talking to somebody. These guys were expecting to be followed, Chris climbed down from the window and tried to run away, but when he turned around, he saw a Spartan in gold behind him, it was Talwin. Talwin had his gun pointed at Chris. "Come with me, Fitzgerald needs to talk to you, or I can just kill you, your call."

Chris put down his weapons and Talwin escorted him to another

warehouse. He saw Styx with his sword out, fighting a gold armoured elite, Phoenix hadn't expected to see Mitch and Talwin here.

"Styx! Stand down, you can't win!"

"Styx hasn't got a choice, we don't want him alive, Mitch wants to kill him personally."

A covenant drop pod crashed between the two of them and popped open. Out walked a Green and Gold Spartan, but his armour had been modified, he had large ammo belts running around his legs and arms, all leading to his chest which had a large machine gun turret coming out of it. Clearly there was no way to get the turret out of Ian's chest, but they figured out how to make it work, and keep him alive.

Ian opened fire on Mitch and Talwin, they both dived into the warehouse as Ian's bullets went everywhere. The turret stopped spinning and Ian, Chris and Styx started running back towards the train station.

They jumped on a train and all the civilians moved to other carriages, apparently a Spartan with a turret in his chest wasn't the most welcome of sights. "Ian, what are you doing here?" Chris didn't call for Ian to drop, and he was sure Styx hadn't either.

"Dream is on the Inquisitor, they killed everyone who tried to fight them, they have rigged it with explosives. I got off and dropped for your transponders. I couldn't figure out a way to save the others on there, apparently it is going to blow as soon as the public knows we are here."

"We need to get more reinforcements, Aden is back there, we just need to get passed Mitch and Talwin."

"Before I dropped, we lost the signal from Osci's radio, it is possible that it broke by itself, but just as likely that something went wrong, I dropped for you guys because you had separated then met up at another location."

As they got off the train, they heard an explosion in the distance and people started screaming and running. Chris turned around to see the ONI building, way in the distance of the city, falling towards the ground.

28. Chapter 28

"Wake up Karl, we need to talk." Karl opened his eyes to see Fitzgerald punch him in the face. The last thing Karl remembered was being about to hit the ground with his parachute, he had pulled the cord late. He must have been knocked out on landing, and Fitzgerald found him. Karl was hand cuffed to the wall by his hands and feet.

"Where is the fourth Spartan?" Fitzgerald punched Karl in the stomach and Karl screamed in pain.

"Did you honestly think that all of you would be able to leave alive Karl?"

Karl started laughing at Fitzgerald. "What makes you think any of us plan to survive this mission? All that matters is that you and Aden are dead."

"Well that won't happen, Aden has two body doubles, Dream is on your ship, rigging it to blow, your scouts are being followed by Talwin and Mitch, and your Spartan team after me, is heading straight for a trap. But I am sure you guessed that when I killed your friend on the rooftop. The only question I have is, where is the fourth Spartan? I would assume Dan is the missing one." Fitzgerald had no idea that Dan was on Venezia, Karl could use this to his advantage.

"You didn't see him? He grabbed Osci and took him to our extraction point, that's why Osci dived off the building when you shot him. Dan was our backup in case something went wrong. Once he has Osci patched up, he will follow my transponder here to save me." Karl smiled at Fitzgerald as Fitzgerald pulled out a pistol. "Thanks for the heads up, and thank you for giving back my pistol that you stole from me. This was my fathers, and he gave it to me when he retired from the UNSC, it even has 'Fitzgerald' engraved on the side, I was furious when you took this. You said you had no intention of leaving alive, well, for bringing back my pistol, I shall give you your wish." He pointed the pistol at Karl and Karl thought back to when Liam died, he closed his eyes and accepted his fate.

He heard the gun fire, and felt the bullet fly into his left arm. Karl opened his eyes to see a hole in the wall and Osci standing where Fitzgerald was.

He had thrown Fitzgerald through the wall, Osci ran over to Karl and ripped the cuffs out of the wall, his strength was remarkable. "Osci, how are you alive?"

"The infection, I'm physically one of them. But that isn't important, we have to get moving, I heard everything he said." Osci started running for the doorway, but Karl started running for the hole, he saw Fitzgerald on the ground, he grabbed Fitzgerald's gun and pointed it at him. "Hope you're ready to die, because I know I was."

An ODST tackled Karl to the ground, and another one picked up Fitzgerald. As Fitzgerald left, he yelled to Karl. "Just to let you know, the real Aden was the one giving the speech. The body doubles were the ones your scouts followed, they are both dead, take this chance to leave Karl, you won't have another."

29. Chapter 29

BIG BARRY came flying through the front door of ONI Headquarters, Doom was driving, Rogue was riding shotgun and Naomi was on the back. There were marines shooting at them, but the BIG BARRY had reinforced steel plating on all sides, it was bulletproof, even a rocket launcher wouldn't hurt that warthog or the Spartans inside it. They flew up the staircase and onto the second floor before stopping at the elevator. ONI had too many men on the first floor waiting for them, plus that was where reinforcements would enter. Rogue jumped out of the warthog and pressed the elevator button for both elevators, the plan was simple, fifty story building covered in a few seconds by warthog, Fitzgeralds office was the top floor and if he

wasn't there, they could drive down the stairs knowing the elevators weren't used. As soon as the doors opened, they drove in and hit the button for the fiftieth floor.

No doubt there was going to be a heap of marines on the top floor, and getting out was going to be damn near impossible, but the Spartans had made their peace. As soon as the elevator doors opened, they started to drive out and heard a bang and felt the building shake. There was a sign just outside the elevator door. 'Sorry Agents, but I decided to leave before blowing up ONI HQ. See you in hell.'

There was more banging noises and the sky started moving, then a water bottle rolled passed the elevator, followed by a chair on wheels. The building was falling.

"Rogue, get back in the warthog, we are going out the window!" As Doom said this an EMP went off and the warthog shut down, they all climbed out. "What the hell do we do now Doom?"

"Push Barry back into the elevator, if the previous model can fall from space, this one can certainly fall fifty floors." The three Spartans started pushing on the hog as the building fell and gravity shifted. The warthog wasn't moving, it was too heavy with all its new gadgets and armour. Rogue stopped pushing and opened the hatch on top of the roof. "Get in guys, I've got this."

Doom and Naomi got into the hog and the elevator shook, Rogue had broken the wire holding the elevator in place, the elevator started falling, ripping the warthog down with it.

The elevator fell faster than Rogue, he was free falling, with no way to stop himself.

Big Barry had been forced upside down from the falling elevator, Doom climbed out of his seat and onto the roof of the hog, he grabbed the winch on the front of the warthog, he unwound it and threw the hook towards Rogue. Rogue grabbed the hook and Doom pulled him down, they climbed back under the warthog and Rogue got into the driver seat, Doom strapped him in and pressed a button on the warthog, a large energy bubble appeared around Big Barry, it was a shield, as it hit the ground at terminal velocity as the rest of the building fell on top of it, the energy shield broke almost straight away.

30. Chapter 30

Karl ran after Fitzgerald, he had picked up Fitzgeralds pistol again, Fitzgerald had two ODSTs running with him.

Karl followed them into the alleys outside and heard a sniper shot go off nearby, Fitzgerald and the two ODSTs stopped and looked up to see where shot came from. Karl fired a shot at one of the ODST's legs, he fell to the ground and Fitzgerald and the other ODST dived into doorways to take cover. The ODST fired at Karl with his DMR, Osci ran passed Karl and took all the bullets from the DMR fire. He ran at the ODST and tackled him to the ground, Karl ran over to Fitzgerald who grabbed the DMR that the shot ODST had dropped. He shot Karl in the chest and Karl dropped to the ground.

Fitzgerald kicked the pistol away from Karl and pointed the DMR at his face. "I gave you the chance to leave, you chose to die."

A large explosion went off in the distance, followed by the sound of an earthquake. An alley door opened and a Spartan walked out, he had purple armour, his left arm had been replaced with a large piece of metal. He was holding a sniper rifle in his right arm, resting it on the metal bar that had replaced his left arm, Karl knew it was Dan.

"Step away from the marines, before I blast you all. And tell me where Mitch and Talwin are, I know they are on the planet."

Karl rolled away from Fitzgerald and grabbed the pistol off the ground and shot Fitzgerald in the head. Fitzgerald fell to the ground and the ODST ran away from Osci as Karl got up and pointed his gun at Fitzgerald's body. "Suck shit cunt, that was for Liam and any other of my squad members you have gotten killed today."

They helped the ODSTs off the ground. "Tell us where the others are, so we can get out of here."

"They are all dead, your ship is rigged with explosives, as soon as the rest of Dream finds out about Fitzgerald dying, they are going to blow it up."

Karl pointed his gun at the ODSTs. "Then I guess we should make sure you don't tell them?"

Dan knocked the gun from Karl's hands. "No, we shouldn't have even killed Fitzgerald, I already got the general, now lets get to the ship, we still have men on there."

They knocked out the ODSTs and headed back to the Pelican.

31. Chapter 31

Derv grabbed his pistol and waited, Reid and Sam were up and gearing up for combat. Somebody was on the ship, most of the crew had evacuated or been killed, but they heard gunshots from down the hall, somebody was coming.

The door to the medical bay opened, an ODST walked in shooting Reid and Sam straight away, he then pointed his gun at Derv. "Put the fucking gun down."

The ODSTs personal radio went off. "Vozi, get off the ship, Fitzgerald and the general are dead, we have to detonate now."

Vozi threw his radio away and fired a shot into Derv's foot. "Drop the fucking gun!"

Derv dropped the pistol and put his hands up as he screamed in pain.

"Shut the fuck up and listen! You brought this upon yourself maggot!"

Derv calmed himself down, he remembered that Vozi was the one who

watched him kill Excision. "Hurry up and kill me, I know that's why you are here."

"I want to know why you did it, why did you kill him? We already gave back your man."

"We had to rescue Chris, and when we found him, we found that you had tortured him, so I made you pay for it. You tortured our guy, because he followed Fitzgerald's orders, that's not fair."

"We gave him back, and we never fucking touched him!"

Vozi shot Derv's other foot and Derv screamed in pain and looked Vozi in the eye.

"Then why is it, that he was half dead on the Dream Aura when we found him? Being guarded by one of your men in a mantis?"

Vozi hit Derv with the butt of his gun. "Liar! Excision was guarding a top secret package when you attacked him! I know because Fitzgerald asked me to do it, but I didn't want to be stuck guarding some ONI shit on my own, so I asked him to take my place. Fitzgerald had already sent your guy back, he told us that he wasn't part of the assassination."

"Then Fitzgerald lied to you, like he lied to us. Fitzgerald ordered the damn assassination. Then he visited us after Excision died to give us new crew. Then he arrested us, for Excision's death, then we watched him execute Liam, for no reason. Then he sent those two killers after us, to wipe us out, so we came back to get rid of him."

Vozi dropped his gun, Fitzgerald has set them him, he had set up Vozi to be killed, and Vozi let Excision take his place, and even die. Fitzgerald turned the three best squads in the UNSC on each other, so that they would die, and nobody would know what he had done. So he could take control of the UNSC, Derv wasn't the monster Vozi had thought he was, he was just looking out for his team, his friends. Phoenix and Dream were the same, both on opposite sides of a war, caused by the same leader. Vozi realized, he had just shot Sam and Reid, his former team mates, and people that should still be his team mates. He walked across the room and picked up his radio. "Guys, we have new orders, Dream is to abandon

the UNSC, Fitzgerald has ordered for us to die once Phoenix is gone. I think we should leave before Mitch and Talwin come to kill us. All Dream members, get on the Pius Inquisitor immediately."

He looked over to Reid and Sam who were laying on the ground covered in blood. "We will find a way for Phoenix to return home, and until we do, we will stay with you. But, the moment we find out that you have lied about Fitzgerald, we will kill all of you."

32. Chapter 32

A pelican entered the Inquisitor, Karl, Dan, Reaper, Sleet and Osci climbed off with their guns out. Derv was in a wheel chair, waiting for them with Sav Fel and a Brute. But nobody else was around. Osci ran over to Derv. "Are you ok man? I heard Dream was on the ship, we

have a bomb to disarm."

"Bombs disarmed, Dream are still on board, minus two members."

"How did you disarm the bomb? And what happened to your legs?"

"A member of Dream shot me in the legs, so I politely asked them to disarm the bomb." Derv smiled at Osci and Sav Fel laughed.

"They joined us, to make up for our lost crew, where is the rest of your team?"

The team put their guns away, except for Karl, he was still looking for something to shoot at. "It was a fucking setup, Fitzgerald knew we were coming, ambushed all of us!"

Derv's smile went away, did this mean that nobody else was coming? "What about Chris, and the others?"

"They are all dead, just as Osci said, don't expect any of us to return alive, we got lucky I guess. But hey, mission complete, Aden and Fitzgerald are both dead."

"Yeah, Dream told us that already, anybody want to come with me and get their bodies back, so we can give them a proper burial?" Derv started moving towards the Pelican when Dan put his arm out. "Stop it, we can't stay here, the city is in chaos, they think the covenant has attacked and the UNSC are looking for us, we have to go."

"Go where? Nigel Four belongs to the covenant, and Venezia belongs to the flood. We have nowhere to go, they died for us, the least we can do is show them respect."

"I understand that, but we don't have a say in it, once the UNSC finds this ship, they will destroy it, and they are already looking for it."

A civilian ship flew into the Inquisitors dock. Ian, Chris and Styx got out. "I assumed that we had missed our ride when we got to evac, to find no evac." Chris ran over to Derv and hugged him. "I hope you didn't worry about us too much, we couldn't kill either target though. We were attacked by Mitch and Talwin, but Ian saved us and they got away."

"It's fine, both targets were decoys, Dan got the real one. All that matters is that you survived."

"Yeah but we are still 3 Spartans short." Once again, Karl ruined the moment with his negativity.

"What happened to them? We saw ONI HQ collapse, we assumed it was to take out Fitzgerald."

"They were inside when it happened, Fitzgerald rigged it to blow up on them. He wasn't even there! I spent ages on that bloody car, and Doom fucking wrecks it, so I rebuild it and he fucking diâ€¦" Karl stopped, he realized something. "They had Big Barry, they should be fine! Sav Fel, get this ship to the ruins of ONI HQ, and turn cloaking off so that they can find us."

"You heard the man, get that pelican loaded up!" Ian was excited to know that they had a chance of leaving without a single casualty.

As soon as the Inquisitor got to ONI HQ and turned off its cloaking device, there was a loud bang and the ship shook, the UNSC was attacking, Ian, Dan, Karl and Osci were all in the pelican, they left the inquisitor to see flares go up from the building rubble, they descended to see three Spartans cheering for them. The Pelican flew low and Rogue and Naomi jumped on board. Doom climbed into a hole in the rubble. "What is he doing, we have UNSC shortswords on the way here!"

"I think he left something in the Warthog, give him as long as you can." Then Doom emerged with a steel rope, he jumped onto the Pelican holding the rope which was still attached to the rubble, he tied it to the Pelican and Karl smiled at him. "Hope it's long enough buddy."

"I never got a chance to test it really, so we will see."

A UNSC cruiser came out of the clouds and fired on the Inquisitor, it was the UNSC Hasten, currently the fastest UNSC ship.

The pelican touched down in the Inquisitor and Doom was still carrying the steel rope that headed back down to the Earth. He tied it around a heap of the ships support structures. "Everybody move to another part of the ship, just in case the ship can't take it. Now get us out of here!"

The Inquisitor started moving into the atmosphere, as soon as it got into space, they made a slipspace jump with the Hasten behind them.

The Inqisitor came out of slipspace in a distant part of the universe. Out of the windows, the crew could see the immensely damaged UNSC Hasten, and at the end of the steel rope that was hanging out of the Inquisitor, was Big Barry, the rope was its ridiculously long and unbreakable winch. The slipspace jump had forced Big Barry to tear through the UNSC ship, leaving the Inquisitor free to fly away unpursued. They headed to Nigel four, with their cloaking on and decided to salvage any UNSC equipment that they could find.

Dan, Chris, Ian and Karl headed back to the cave that the team had hidden in, there, they found Camo's body, Chris and Ian headed back to the Inquisitor with Camo's body as Dan and Karl started searching for the ODST pod that contained Liam.

End
file.